

**BLENDON TOWNSHIP**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**March 17, 2016**

1. Bill Vanden Berg, Township Supervisor, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. Invocation by Don Vander Kuyl.
3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
4. Roll call.      PRESENT:      Bill Vanden Berg, Betty Luurtsema, Don Vander Kuyl,  
Robin Overway, Paul Blauwkamp
5. Motion to approve the agenda made by Blauwkamp, supported by Vander Kuyl.      Motion carried.
6. Motion to approve the minutes of the Blendon Township Board meeting held on March 17, 2016,  
made by Vander Kuyl, supported by Blauwkamp.      Motion carried.
7. Motion to approve invoices dated March 18, 2016 through April 21, 2016, including an addendum  
made by Luurtsema, supported by Overway.      Motion carried.
8. Treasurer's Report submitted by Vander Kuyl.
9. Clerk's Report submitted by Overway
10. Supervisor's Report reviewed by Vanden Berg.
11. Opportunity for Public Comment
  - Brad Slagh, Ottawa County Treasurer, addressed the Board and audience with an overview of processes and assistance available to those who are in tax delinquency status.
  - John Hulsing, 20<sup>th</sup> District Circuit Court Judge, presented information regarding Circuit Court performance standards and transparency improvements.
  - Jim Lilly, Candidate for the 89<sup>th</sup> District State Representative, introduced himself to the Board and members of the audience, discussed concerns and replied to a question regarding Common Core, stating it gives a high level of accountability, however it does not give local districts enough control, which he feels is a problem.
  - Vern Helder, Candidate for the 58<sup>th</sup> District Court Judicial seat, introduced himself and stated his background and current qualifications.
12. Monthly Reports
  - A. Blendon Township Emergency Services Board – No meeting held in March.
  - B. Fire Chief's Report – Submitted by Kurt Gernaat, Fire Chief.
  - C. Police Activity Report – Submitted by Deputy Jewell.

- D. Assessor's Report – Submitted by Tyler Tacoma, Assessor.
- E. Building Activity Comparison Reports – Submitted for Board Review.
- F. Cemetery Sexton's Activity Report – Submitted by, Scott VanderVeen, Cemetery Sexton.
- G. Building and Grounds Report – Submitted by Kurt Gernaat.
- H. Zoning Administrator's Report – Submitted by Kurt Gernaat, Zoning Administrator.
- I. Planning Commission Minutes – Highlights reviewed by Commissioner Blauwkamp.
  - Annual Report submitted by Jim VanderVeen, Secretary

13. Tabled Business – Discussion of Gravel Roads Tabled in January 2016.

- A. Motion to untable gravel road discussion by Blauwkamp, supported by Vander Kuyl.  

Motion Carried
- B. Motion by Blauwkamp, supported by Overway, to allocate \$30,000 annually from the General Fund, to be used annually to add 4 inches of gravel to 1 mile of unpaved roads determined by the Supervisor.  

Motion Carried (4-1)

14. New Business

- A. Supervisor opened the Public Hearing for the paving of 64<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Barry to New Holland.
  - Opportunity for Public Comment:
    - ✧ Phil De Lange, property owner, brought to the Board's attention a previous Road Improvement Policy included a CAP, which he questioned why it was no longer in effect on the current Policy. He respectfully asked to Board to honor the previous policy inclusion of a financial Cap to the residents. Mr. De Lange indicated that he was in favor of paving the road.
    - ✧ Calvin Top, representing his father, Chester Top, property owner, inquired who would determine if the Special Assessment District would be created. The Supervisor indicated that the property owners would have one more month to determine if they are in favor, and that if property owners with collectively 51% or more of lineal frontage were in favor, then the Special Assessment District would be created. Supervisor asked that property owners write or email him with their opinions. Mr. Top indicated that on behalf of his parents, were not in favor of the paving.
    - ✧ Mark Bussis, property owner, indicated that he would be in favor of the paving if the \$5,000 cap was to remain. If not, he suggested the possibility of adding asphalt shavings to the existing gravel. Treasurer Vander Kuyl responded that the Road Commission would determine if that would be allowed and if they would agree to it.
    - ✧ Mary Kroodsma, property owner, indicated that in another Township road paving projects were spread evenly with all property owners in the Township. Supervisor Vanden Berg indicated that would have been the case if the requested Township Road Millage had passed in last year's local election. She indicated that she is against the paving.
  - With no other public comments, the Supervisor closed the Public Hearing at 7:55 pm.
  - Discussion amongst the Board members continued regarding the next step. Motion by Blauwkamp, supported by Luurtsema, to table further decision on the matter until legal advice is obtained and new information is sent to the affected property owners.

Motion Carried

- B. Motion by Vander Kuyl, supported by Luurtsema, to approve Resolution #2016-04.1 to adopt the Poverty Guidelines for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

Roll call vote: Luurtsema, yes; Vander Kuyl, yes; Overway, yes;  
Blauwkamp, yes; Vanden Berg, yes.

Resolution Adopted

- C. Motion by Vander Kuyl, supported by Blauwkamp, to approve the automatic payment of all credit card invoices to avoid incurring late payment and interest charges. Motion Carried

15. Correspondence and Information

- A. Ottawa County Sheriff's Office 2015 Annual Report.
- B. Local government Law Bulletin, March 2016, from Mika Meyers, PLC.
- C. NutriGro environmental Solutions Inc. report of biosolid application.

16. Upcoming Events.

- A. Emergency Services – 04/28/16
- B. Planning Commission – 05/10/16
- C. Township Board – 05/19/16

17. With no other business to be brought before the Board, the Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Recorded by Cindy Humphrey, Sr. Administrative Assistant  
Submitted by Robin Overway, Township Clerk